

North Easton, Massachusetts

August 30, 1932

My dear Mr. Edwards:

Your 188, Laelia Dygbyana, is a most extraordinary find and I am deeply grieved to think that you did not save the seed pod and send the ripe seed to me. Of course you could not know this. In all my experience I have never seen a specimen of this species with broad, fringed petals. Perhaps there is a record somewhere of such a variety, but I have not been able to find one. The broad fringed petals, if they could be imparted to hybrids with Cattleya and Laelia would give us an entirely new strain of horticultural orchids. At least, I think so. If by any chance, the variety is common in Honduras, it may prove worthy of a name. I am having the flower drawn, and if it comes out well I shall publish it in the Bulletin of the American Orchid Society.

Your 194 has me guessing. It has the column of a Stelis, but the vegetative parts and the shape of the flower resemble Pleurothallis. I think this is a new species. It is a dear thing. I hope you will find more of it in your rambles. The alcoholic material comes in mighty handy for a good drawing!

In the good old days that Laelia Dygbyana in Stevens auction rooms in London would have turned in a pretty penny. One hates to think of what it would bring now among our hybridizers who are on the lookout for anything exceptional.

Edw. C. C.



Ames, Oakes. 1932. "Ames, Oakes Aug. 30, 1932 [to J.B. Edwards]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files*

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